

Red Trial —Ghosts Of Rebels

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The Soviet government, trying a British teacher on charges of subversive activities, yesterday accused the British Embassy here of working with an emigre organization seeking to overthrow the Soviet regime.

The charge came in the indictment of Gerald Brooke, a 27-year-old lecturer in the Russian language at Holborn College in London. Mr. Brooke was arrested here April 25 in the Moscow apartment of Yuri Konstantinov, who, it developed, was a double agent.

The British Embassy denied the allegations against it in the indictment, saying "No member of the Embassy was associated with Mr. Brooke or with any of his alleged activities."

The tall curly-haired Englishman was charged with trying to pass anti-Soviet propaganda rubber stamps, printing materials, instructions for sending and receiving coded radio broadcasts and other items to Mr. Konstantinov, who was lauded in Soviet press accounts yesterday as a "patriot of the fatherland."

The KGB—the Soviet secret police—arrested Mr. Brooke and his wife. She was subsequently released and returned to London. She was not present

at her husband's trial yesterday.

The teacher pleaded guilty to the charges in the forty-minute opening session of his trial. The trial was rehearsed last weekend.

The guilty plea included an admission that he was working for the NTS, an emigre group that originated in 1930 here for the purpose of overthrowing communism in the Soviet Union.

Originally, the NTS which are the Russian initials for the Popular Labor Alliance, borrowed many of its ideas from the structure of Italian fascism. The indictment charged it is still active in Britain, the United States and other imperialist countries.

As read out by presiding Judge Lev Almazov before a carefully selected audience and in a room full of all the trappings of a show trial, the indictment of Mr. Brooke told the story of sloppy international intrigue.

The indictment charged Mr. Brooke was recruited into the NTS by a man named Georgi in London in 1964. Last April, he used his position as head of a British students' tour to bring into the Soviet Union leaflets, other papers and booklets as well as letters to be mailed to NTS supporters inside the country. He carried some of the material in especially made underwear that had secret pockets, the indictment charged.

He also carried a photograph album with the radio instructions hidden inside the cover, according to the charges.

The charges also said the young teacher mailed six letters in six different post-boxes on the Leninsky Prospekt, one of Moscow's most

fashionable residential streets.

Mr. Brooke admitted during the two-month investigation after his arrest that if he had been unsuccessful in distributing any of the material, he was to hand the material over to the British Embassy for return to Britain in the diplomatic pouch, according to the indictment.

The indictment alleged his contact at the Embassy was one, Bishop (K. Anthony Bishop), a 27-year-old foreign secretary in the Soviet Affairs section. Mr. Bishop had no comment on the charge yesterday the British spokesman said the Embassy's general denial of involvement—"of course" included Mr. Bishop.

Mr. Brooke went on trial in the theater of the Union of Workers in the Arts, a pink-stucco building just a short walk from Lubyanka Prison in downtown Moscow where he had been held since his arrest.

Only a half-dozen Western correspondents and no Western photographers were allowed inside the courtroom. Soviet cameramen wandered the courtroom at will, even standing behind the judges' bench. The room was floodlighted for television cameras.

Western newsmen and two British diplomats admitted to the morning session were barred from the four-hour afternoon session at which Mr. Brooke was questioned. Soviet ticket holders were admitted to the second session, however.

Mr. Brooke's guilty plea had been expected. There was talk that his co-operation would earn an easier sentence than the Soviets might otherwise apply. The maximum sentence for his offense is seven years.